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International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

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Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Eleventh session

Summary record of the 197th meeting*

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 14 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Corcuera Cabezut

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* No summary records were issued for the 186th to 196th meetings.

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Other matters

Informal report on the eleventh session

1. **Mr. López Ortega** (Rapporteur), in presenting the Committee's informal report on its eleventh session, said that to date there were 53 States parties to the Convention and that the latest State party to ratify the Convention had been the Central African Republic. The session had been opened on 3 October 2016 by the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Kate Gilmore, after which the Committee had elected Mr. Corcuera Cabezut as Chair, while Mr. Huhle, Ms. Janina and Mr. Yakushiji would serve as Vice-Chairs and Mr. López Ortega as Rapporteur. After adopting the agenda and observing a minute's silence in memory of the victims of enforced disappearance, the Committee reviewed requests for urgent action under article 30 of the Convention; 428 such requests had been submitted and 341 registered. Thereafter, the Committee had examined the initial reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Colombia, and it would shortly publish the concluding observations it had adopted on 12 October 2016. It had also adopted lists of issues for Cuba, Ecuador and Senegal and had appointed rapporteurs for those States parties in advance of the thirteenth session. The Committee had participated in separate videoconferences with the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission and had held the customary meetings with States parties, non-governmental and civil society organizations and United Nations agencies.

Provisional agenda of the twelfth session

2. **The Chair**, recalling that the informal report on the eleventh session had been adopted during the 196th (closed) meeting, invited the Rapporteur to read out the agenda of the twelfth session.

3. **Mr. López Ortega** said that the Committee's twelfth session would be held at Palais Wilson, in Geneva, from 6 to 17 March 2017. The provisional agenda included a minute's silence in memory of the victims of enforced disappearance, the consideration of the initial reports of Cuba, Ecuador and Senegal, and the preparation of lists of issues for Gabon and Lithuania. The Committee would also examine requests for urgent action and the status of individual communications, and it would hold meetings with States parties, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and mechanisms, and national human rights institutions. Lastly, it would review the programme of work for the thirteenth session.

Closure of the session

4. **The Chair** said that the Committee's decisions on the distribution of work would allow for the continued effective implementation of the Convention through collaboration with the States parties. In that regard, he expressed the hope that the election of five new Committee members in 2017 would bring both renewal and consolidation to the work of the Committee. Welcoming the constructive dialogues held with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Colombia and the open attitude displayed by those delegations, he said that the recommendations contained in the respective concluding observations had been highly satisfactory, although the Committee remained concerned by the failure of some States parties to submit their reports on time. The Committee's interaction with other United Nations mechanisms, notably the videoconferences with the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission, had been extremely useful, while the meetings with non-governmental organizations had taken place in a constructive atmosphere. The eleventh

session had demonstrated that the Committee was functioning very well and the Convention was being implemented as best possible by the States parties in a spirit of cooperation and for the benefit of the victims of enforced disappearance and their family members.

5. After the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the eleventh session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances closed.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

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